

Remarks/Arguments

By this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 1 and 26 have been revised to recite the oxidizing agent as being oxygen. Further, by this Preliminary Amendment, dependent claims 2 and 5 have been canceled.

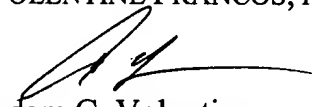
Accordingly, claims 1, 3-4, 6-23, 25-28 and 30-43 are now pending in the application.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, PLLC

By:


Adam C. Volentine
Reg. No. 33,289

December 31, 2003

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, PLLC
12200 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 150
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 715-0870